

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments from the Office Action mailed February 22, 2008 have been carefully considered. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. Amendments have been made to claim 1. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and figures. No new matter has been added.

Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0051616 A1 to Battey et al., which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,539,160 B2 (hereinafter "Battey"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a front panel that is substantially perpendicular to a cassette mount, a first group of couplings arranged on a mounting panel that is arranged to pivot on the cassette mount about a pivot axis, and a second group of couplings arranged on the front panel. The pivot axis of the mounting panel is substantially parallel to a plug-in direction of the first group of couplings.

Battey does not disclose or suggest a first group of couplings arranged on a mounting panel that is arranged to pivot on a cassette mount about a pivot axis that is substantially parallel to a plug-in direction of the first group of couplings. Battey also does not disclose or suggest a second group of couplings arranged on a front panel that is substantially perpendicular to the cassette mount. Neither the splice holders 48 nor the connector array 50, which were identified as couplings on page 3 of the Office Action, have plug-in directions parallel with a pivot axis of any of the trays in Battey. Further, none of the trays on which couplings are arranged are substantially perpendicular to the cable storage bay 28.

For at least these reasons, Battey would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 1. Claims 1-6 and 9-12 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-6 and 9-12 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Battey in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0181922 A1 to Xin et al., which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,792,190 B2 (hereinafter "Xin"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over Battey for at least the same reasons. Xin does not overcome the shortcomings of Battey. Xin also does not disclose or suggest a first group of couplings arranged on a mounting panel that is arranged to pivot on a cassette mount about a pivot axis that is substantially parallel to a plug-in direction of the first group of couplings. In fact, none of the trays in Xin pivot about a pivot axis that is parallel to a plug-in direction of a group of couplings.

For at least these reasons, Battey would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claims 7 and 8, even in view of Xin. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 7 and 8 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 13-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xin. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 13 recites, in part, a mounting panel configured to pivot from a first position covering a cassette mount storage area to a second position providing access to the storage area.

Xin does not disclose or suggest a mounting panel configured to pivot from a first position covering a storage area of a cassette mount to a second position providing access to the storage area. Xin does not even disclose a panel pivotally mounted to cassette mount. Contrary to the assertions on page 5 of the Office Action, the guard 103 in Xin does not pivot. Rather, the guard 103 drops straight down vertically. See *Xin*, column 4, lines 55-60. Subsequently, the guard 103 can be slid in a rearward direction. See *Xin*, column 4, lines 60-64. Dropping and sliding are not the same as pivoting.

For at least these reasons, Xin would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 13. Claims 14-20 depend from claim 13 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 13-20 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

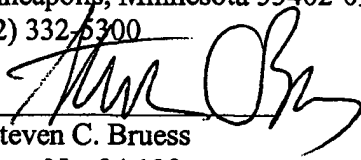
Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

June 20, 2008

By


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